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Department of Environmental Protection

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MassDEP RELEASE OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ESTIMATE FOR THE CLOSURE OF THE UNLINED LANDFILL IN DARTMOUTH October 18, 2013

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) today released a Report prepared by Parsons Environmental & Infrastructure Group Inc. (Parsons), an independent engineering and construction firm with offices in Boston (<http://www.parsons.com/Pages/default.aspx>) that provides a detailed estimate of the costs and associated revenue generation to close, cap, maintain and monitor the unlined landfill located at 452 Old Fall River Road in Dartmouth, Mass. MassDEP's decision to retain Parsons to prepare an independent cost estimate was prompted by repeated concerns expressed by Dartmouth Town officials and residents that MassDEP not rely solely on the cost estimate submitted to the agency by Boston Environmental Company, Inc. (BEC), the company hired by the property owner to bring the landfill into compliance with MassDEP solid waste regulations.

As detailed in the Report, Parsons conducted an independent assessment of the cost of materials, labor, equipment and support services that would be required to close and cap the landfill in accordance with MassDEP's regulations and policies. Parsons also conducted a review of the available supply of and demand for landfill capacity in estimating the revenue that would be generated from the use of regulated grading and shaping materials BEC proposed to incorporate into the landfill's corrective action design. In reaching its conclusions, Parsons did not review the closure costs or revenue estimates that BEC previously submitted to MassDEP.

It was MassDEP's intent in obtaining an independent engineering and financial assessment that Town officials and the public would be confident that MassDEP would not be solely dependent on BEC's estimates to determine the closure costs and associated volume of regulated soils that was reasonably necessary to carry out the landfill closure. While the Report provides substantive and timely information that will be closely considered, it is not MassDEP's intention to substitute the Report's conclusions for the exercise of the Department's professional engineering judgment and considerable expertise in landfill closure projects on the activities and appropriate costs necessary to bring this specific landfill into compliance. MassDEP intends to continue to consult with Town officials and BEC with the objective of designing and carrying through a practicable closure project that will comprehensively address an on-going source of contamination and reduce the risk of future adverse impacts to the community.